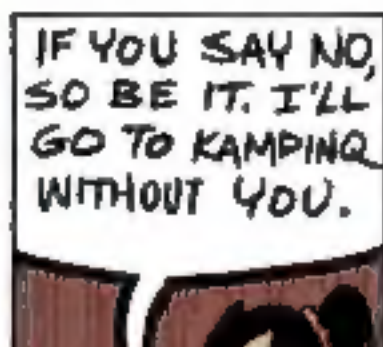






I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT I'M SURE THERE'S SOMETHING YOU AREN'T TELLING US!



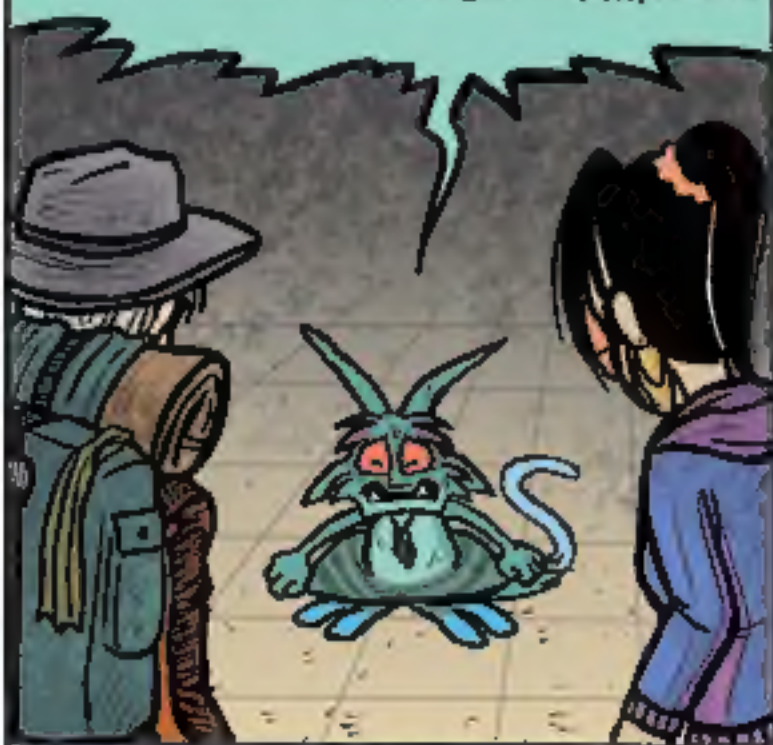
IT'S ALRIGHT, HARPER.



THIS IS MY DECISION. I DON'T WANT YOU TO FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR MAGGOT OR ME.



THOUGH, SIR... HARPER IS ONE OF THE SMARTEST PEOPLE I KNOW AND I THINK YOU'RE UNDERESTIMATING HER!



JARED...



I KNOW THAT...



BUT IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.





IF EVERYONE IS
READY, I'M GOING
TO GO AHEAD AND
WARM UP THE TRUCK.



I ALMOST
FORGOT!



HARPER!
I NEED
TO GET
SOMETHING
OUT OF
MY SUITCASE
IN YOUR
ROOM!



?



ALRIGHT.
I'LL UNLOCK
THE DOOR.



HERE
IT IS!



OKAY,
I'M
READY.

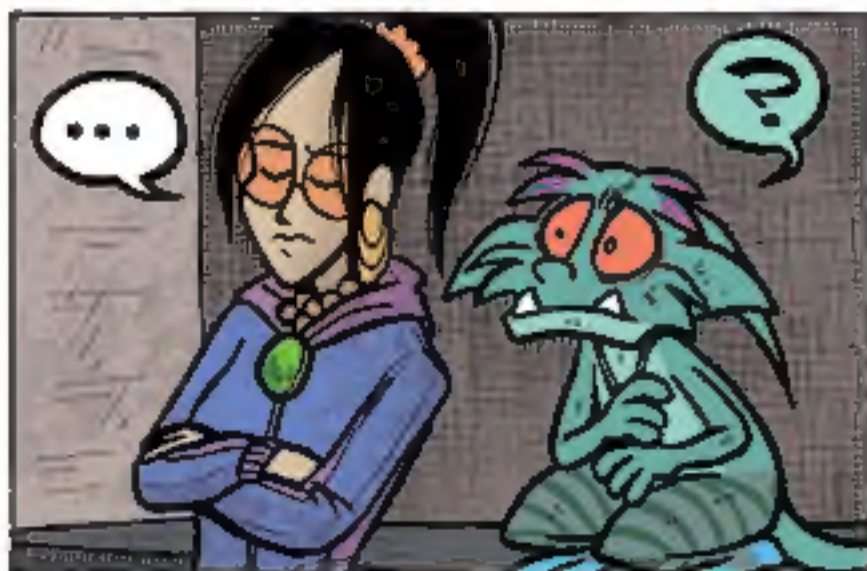




HEY, JARED...
DO YOU
THINK...



NEVERMIND.



IT WAS
A DUMB
QUESTION
ANYWAY.



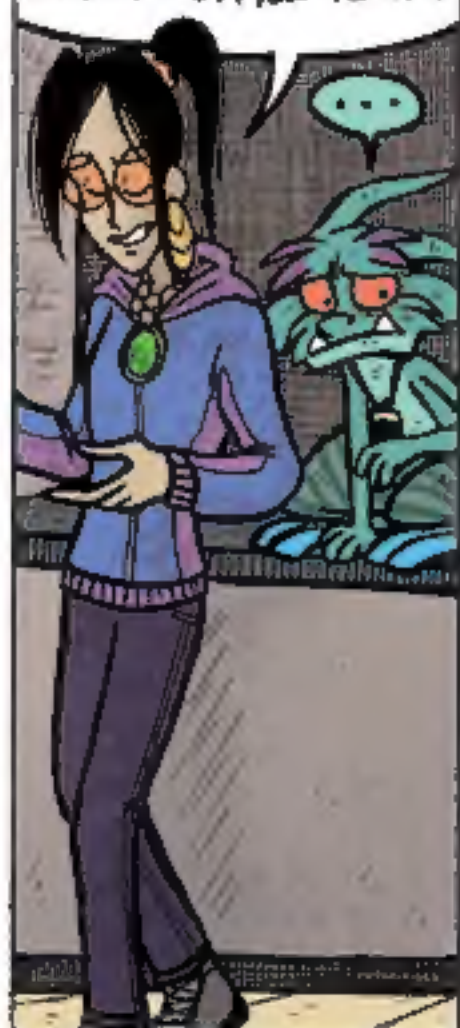
WHAT'S
THE
MATTER
HARPER?



YOU KNOW... WHEN
MY DAD AND I
FIRST MOVED HERE,
I HATED THIS TOWN.



I JUST WANTED TO
GET AWAY FROM THIS
SLEEPY LITTLE TOWN.



MY DAD AND I USED
TO GO ON SO MANY
ADVENTURES...



I STAYED
BECAUSE I
THOUGHT THIS
STORE WAS
DAD'S DREAM.

I THOUGHT,
"WELL, THIS IS
WHAT HE REALLY
WANTS." AND "IT
WILL BE GOOD
FOR HIM TO
SETTLE DOWN."



BUT THIS PLACE...
THIS LIFE WASN'T WHAT
HE WANTED AT ALL.

NOT FOR
HIMSELF
AT LEAST.



IT WAS
WHAT HE WANTED
FOR ME.



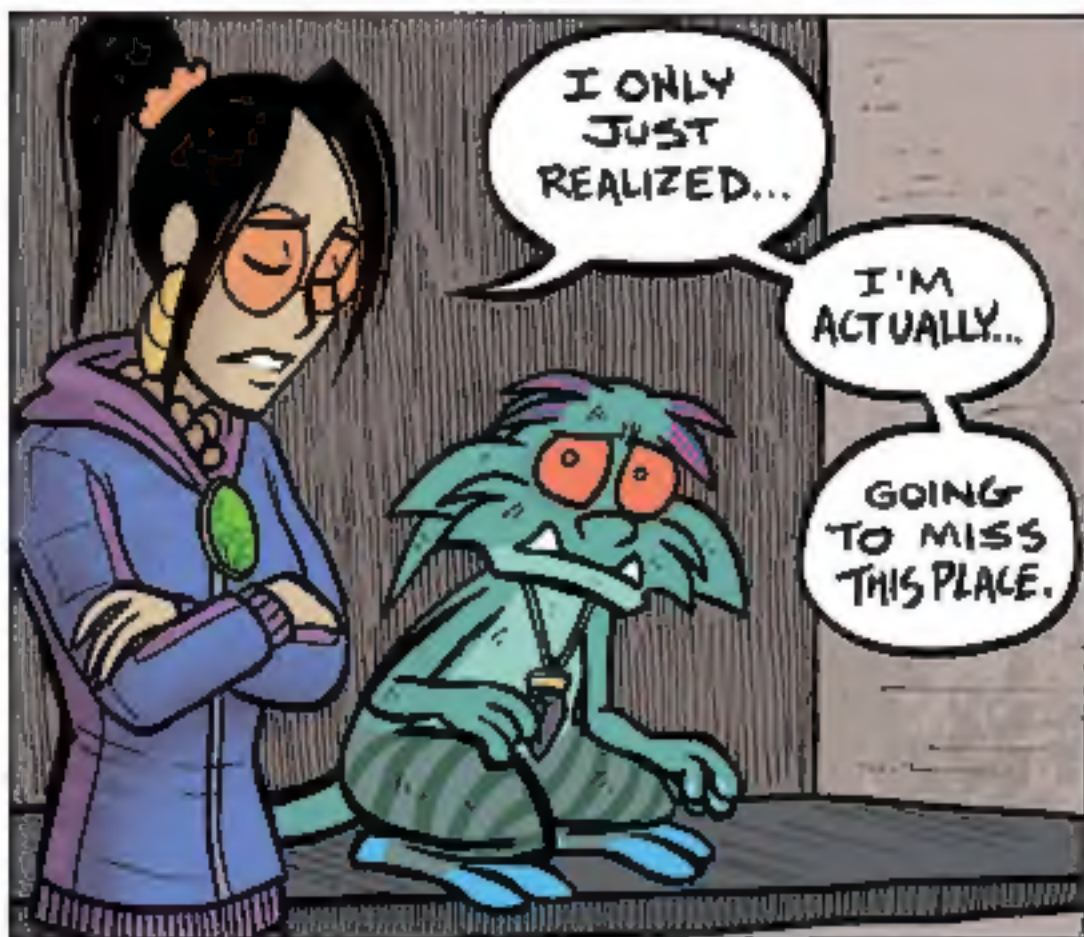
YOU KNOW
WHAT THOUGH?



I ONLY
JUST
REALIZED...

I'M
ACTUALLY...

GOING
TO MISS
THIS PLACE.



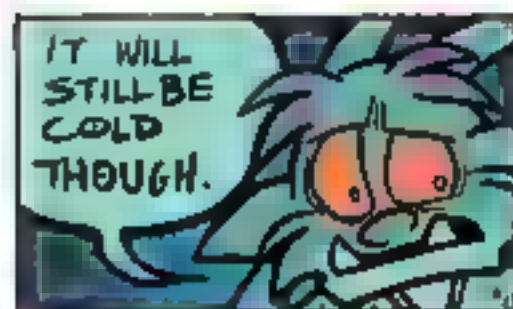
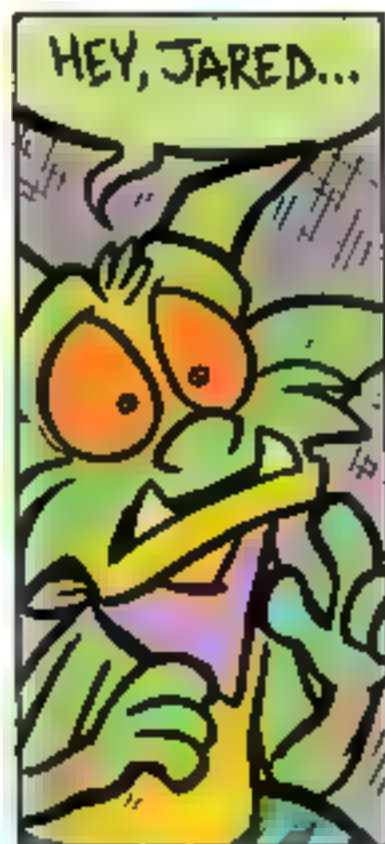
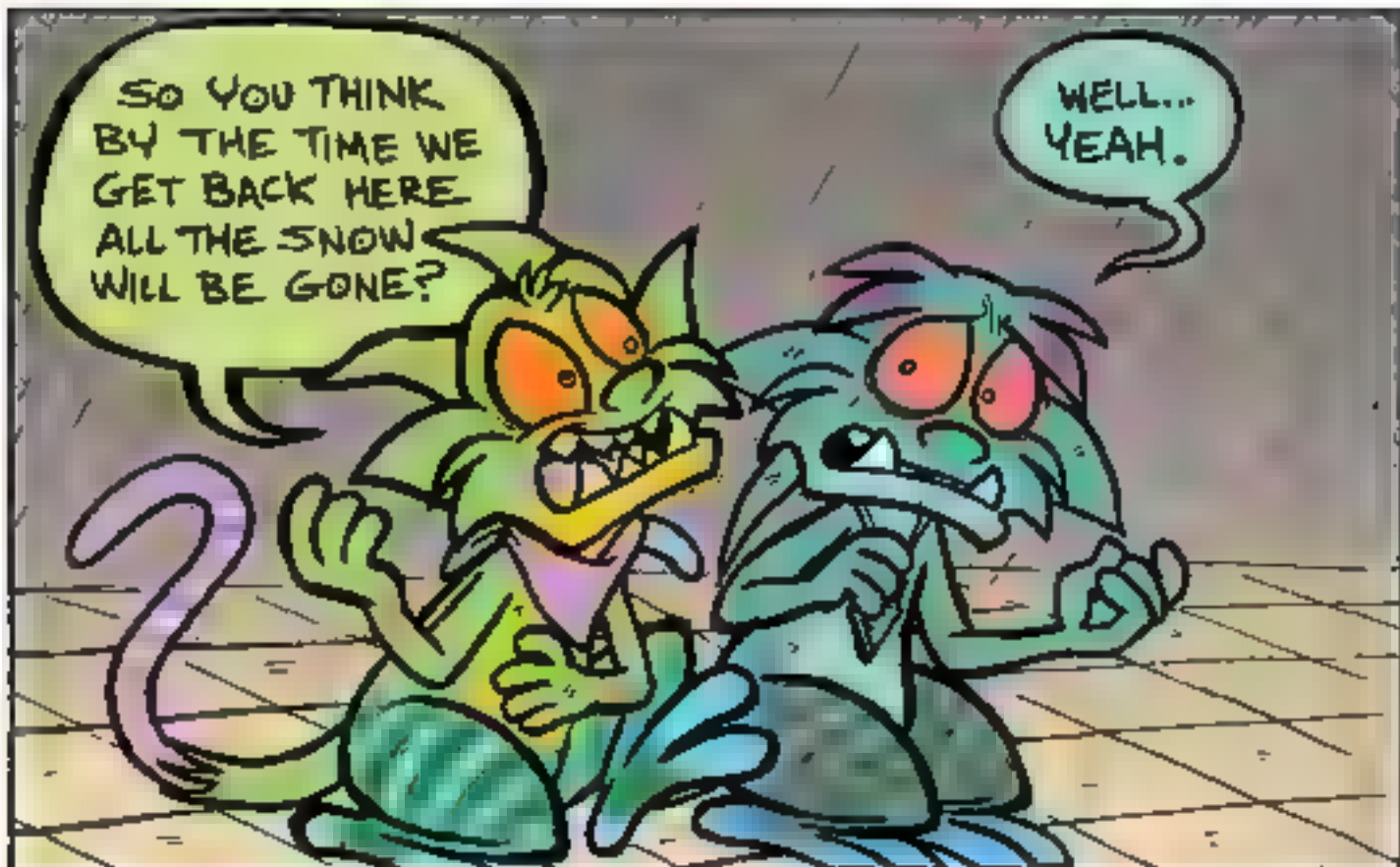
HEY,
HARPER...

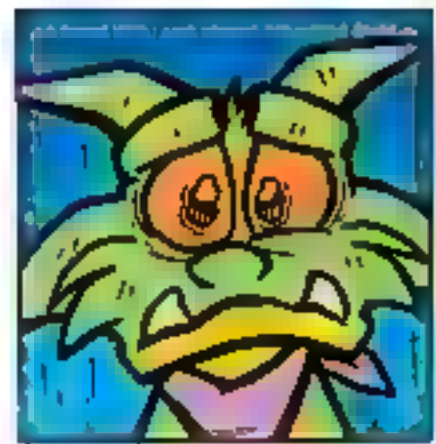
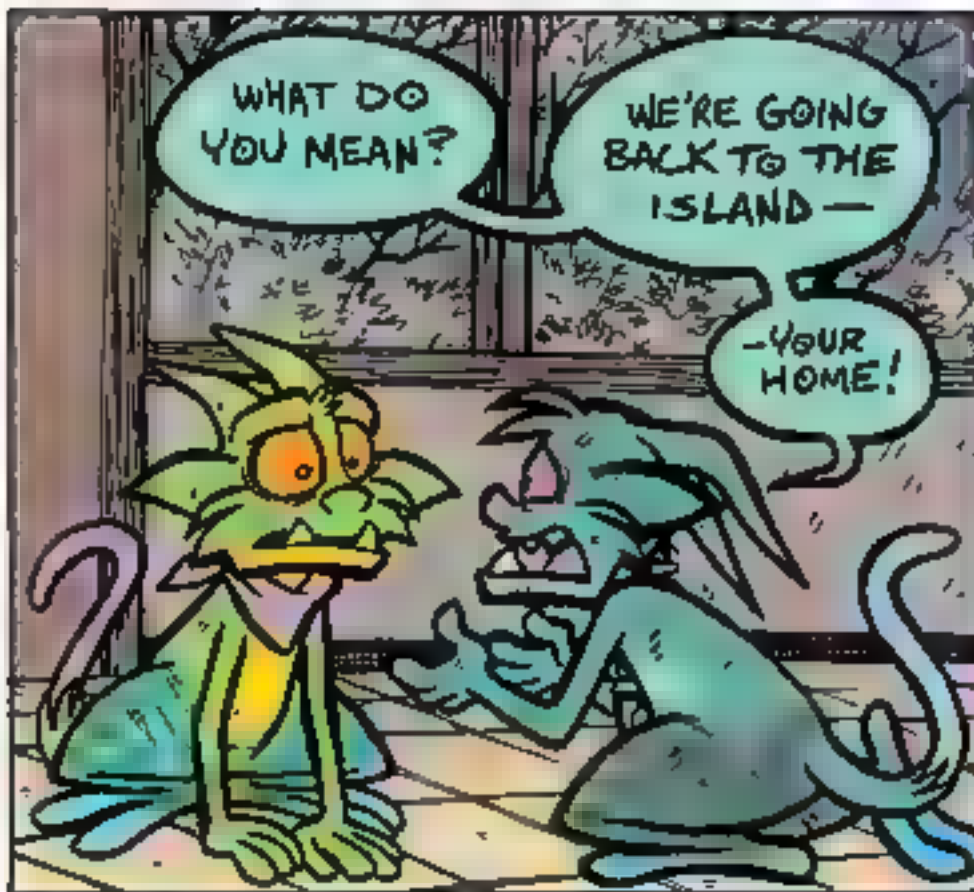














HEY...

THE ISLAND ISN'T SO BAD... RIGHT?
THERE'S LOTS OF FOOD AND IT'S WARM THERE!

BUT...

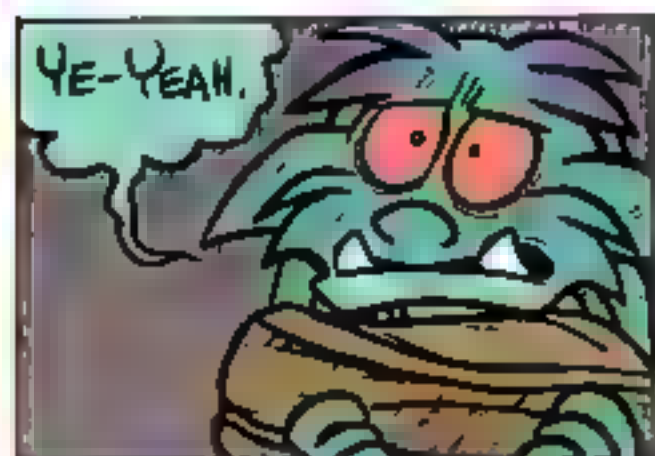
ARE YOU
GOING TO
BE OKAY?

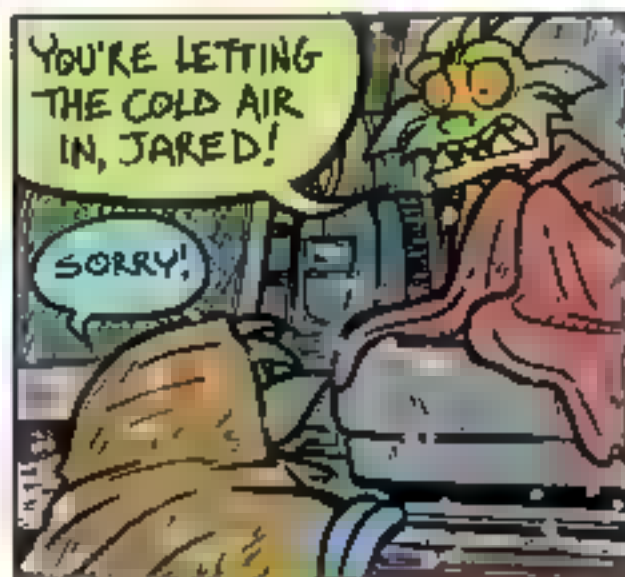
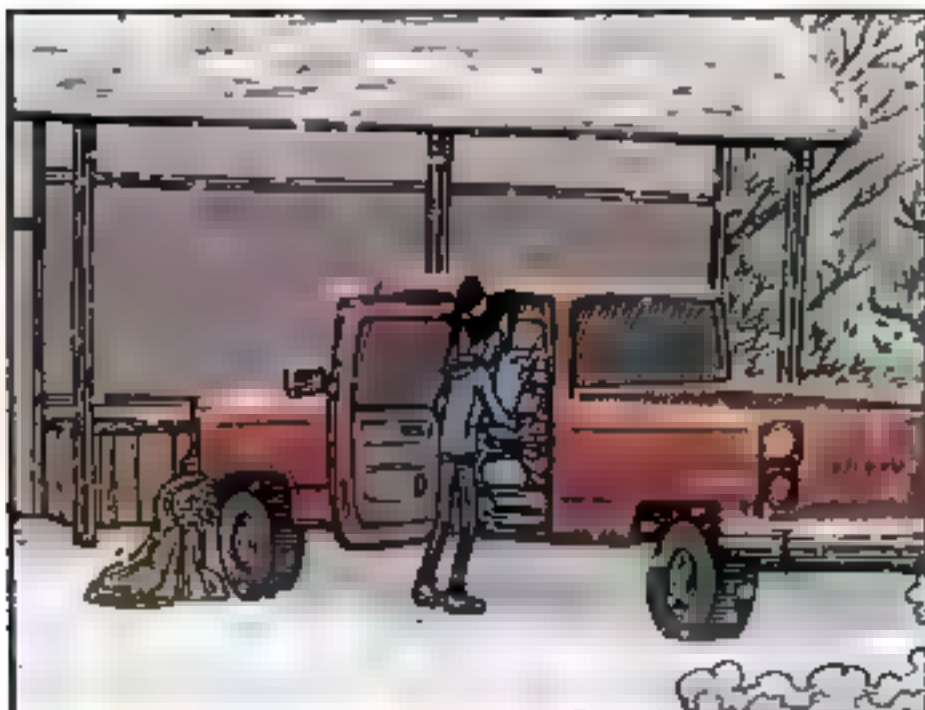
AWW... MAGGOT...
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO WORRY ABOUT
ME!

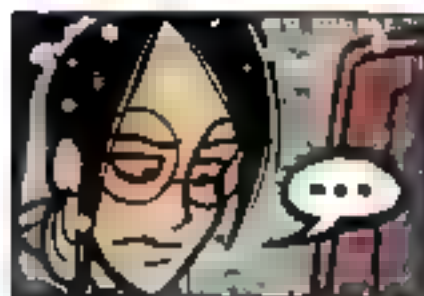
WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE AN
ADVENTURE,
RIGHT?

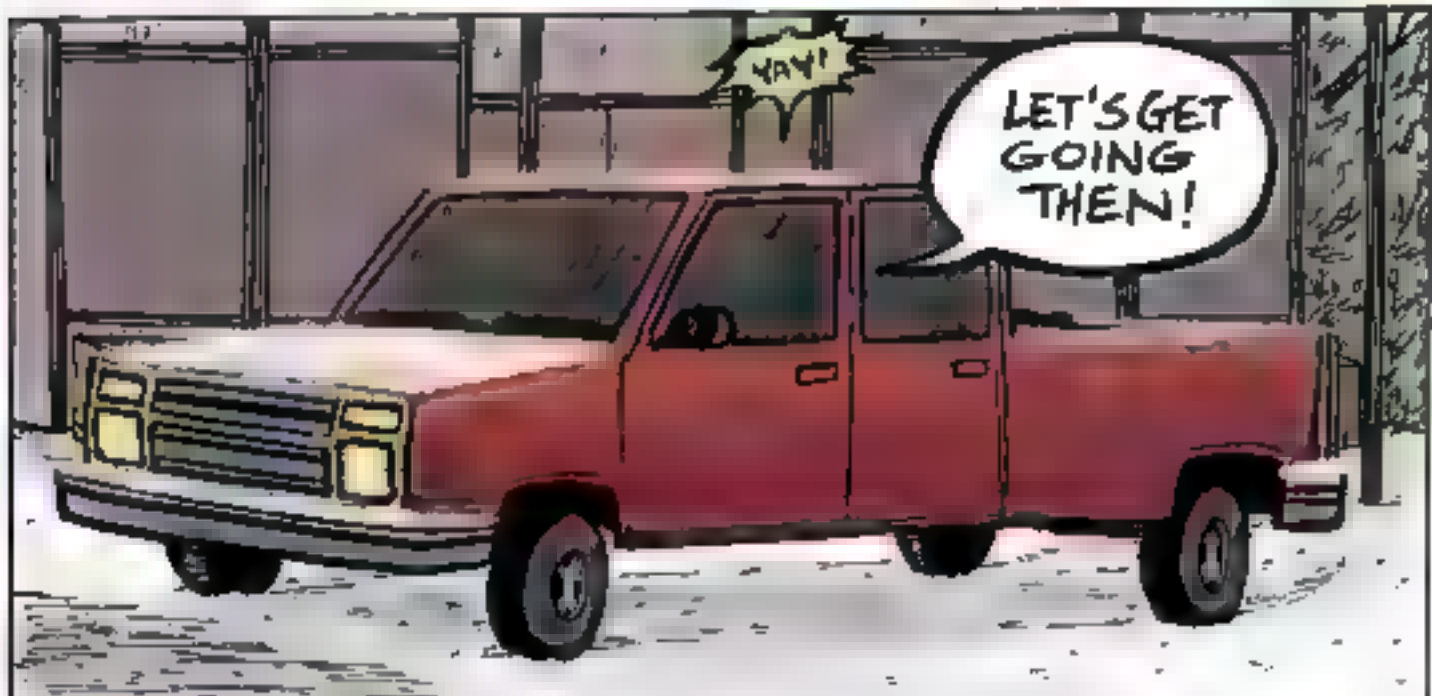
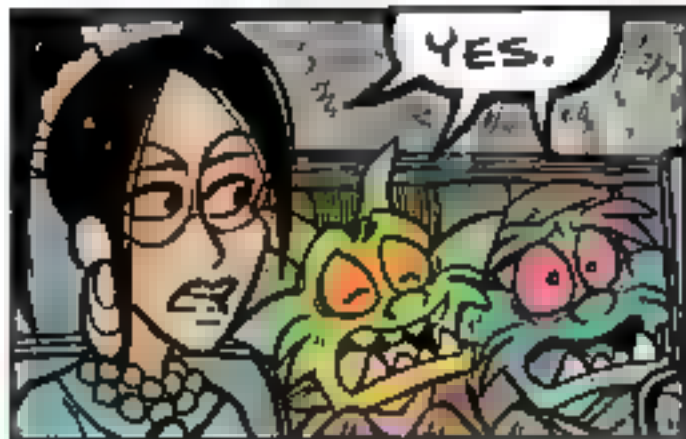
WELL...

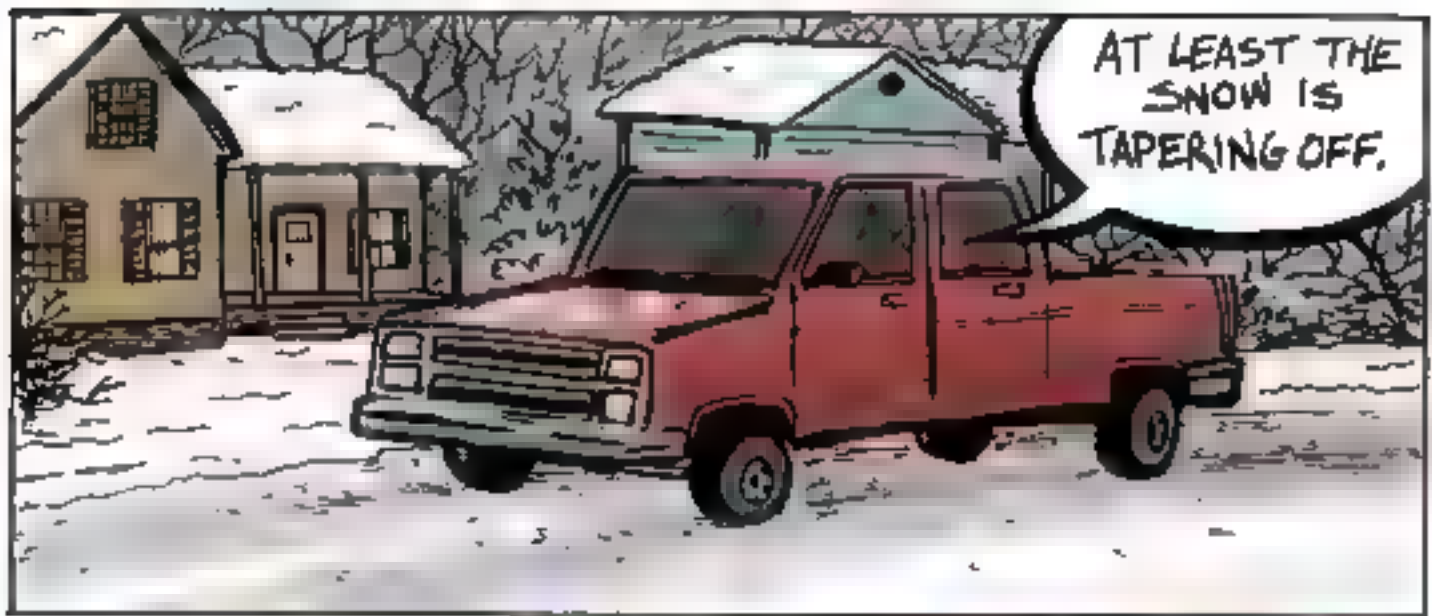
OK!

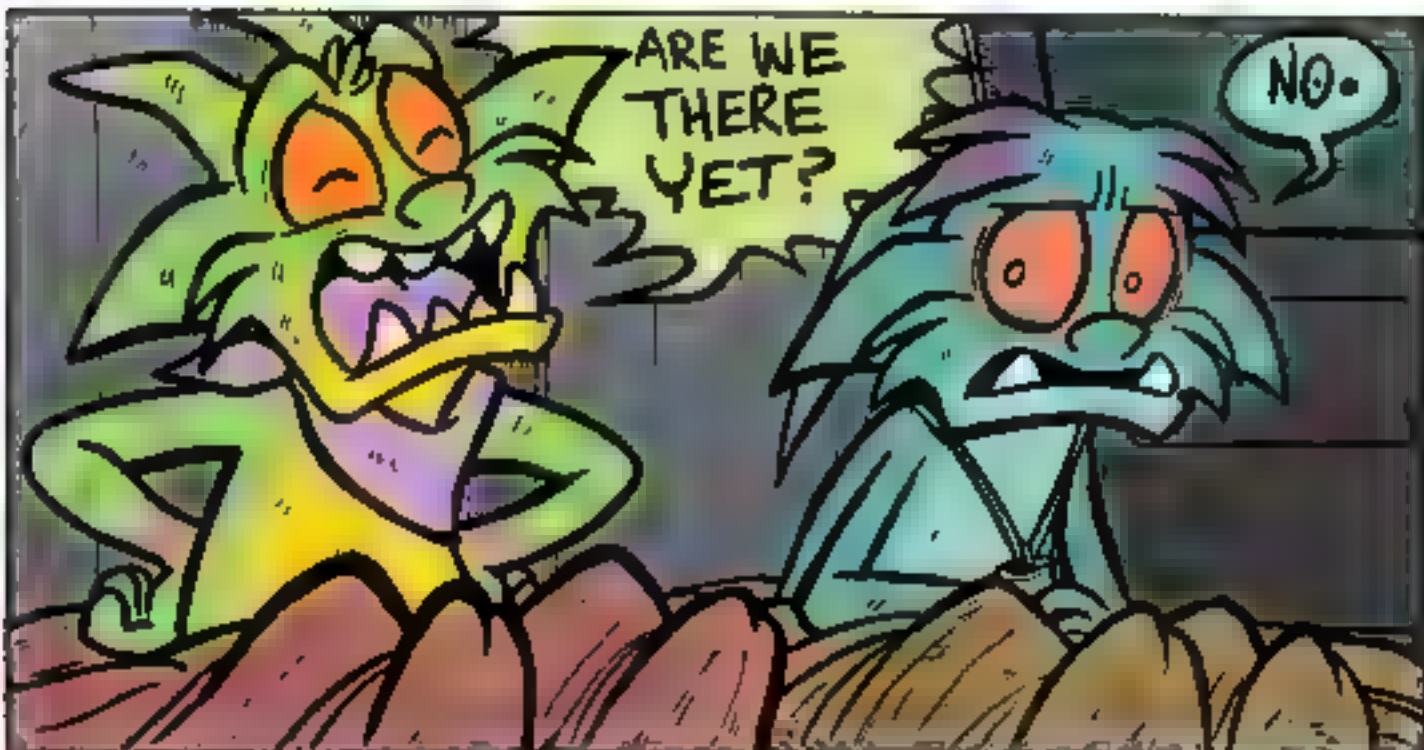
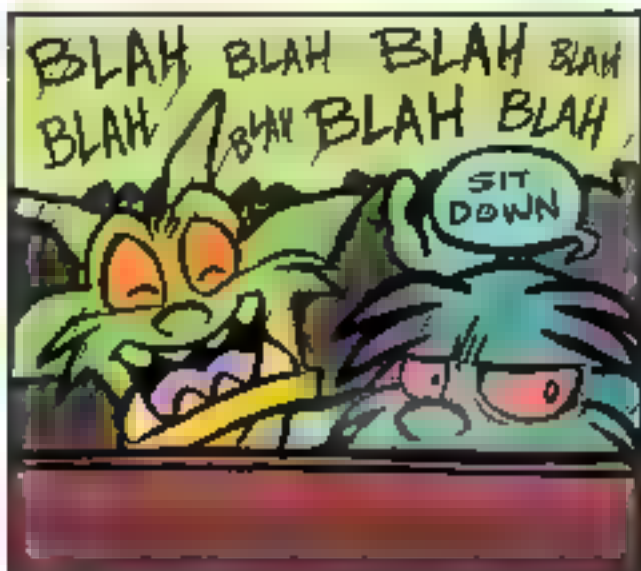
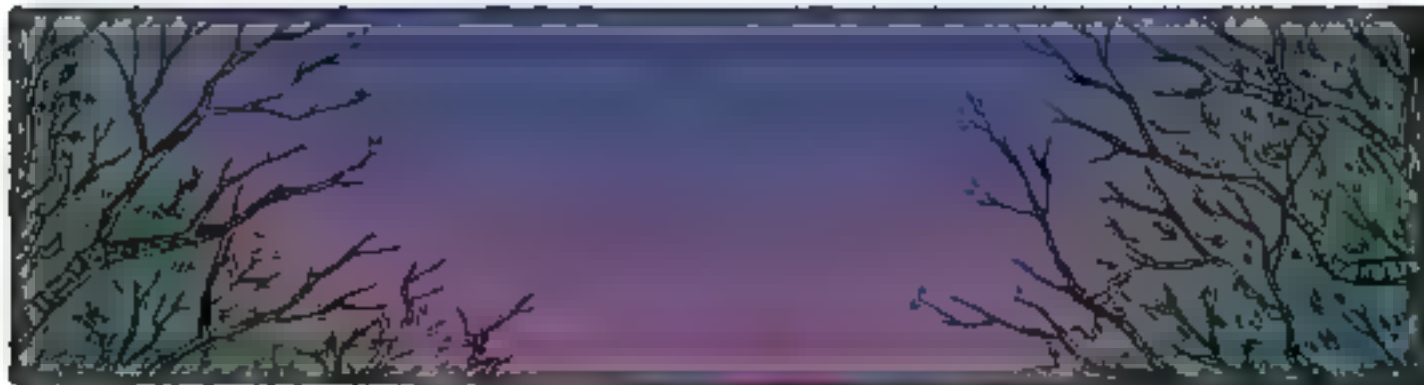


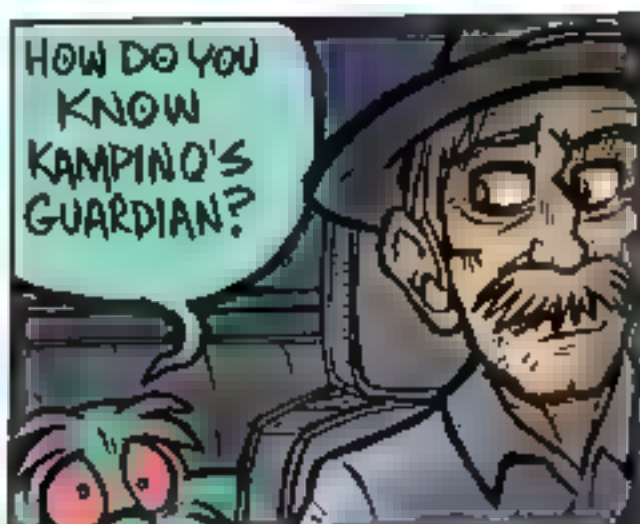
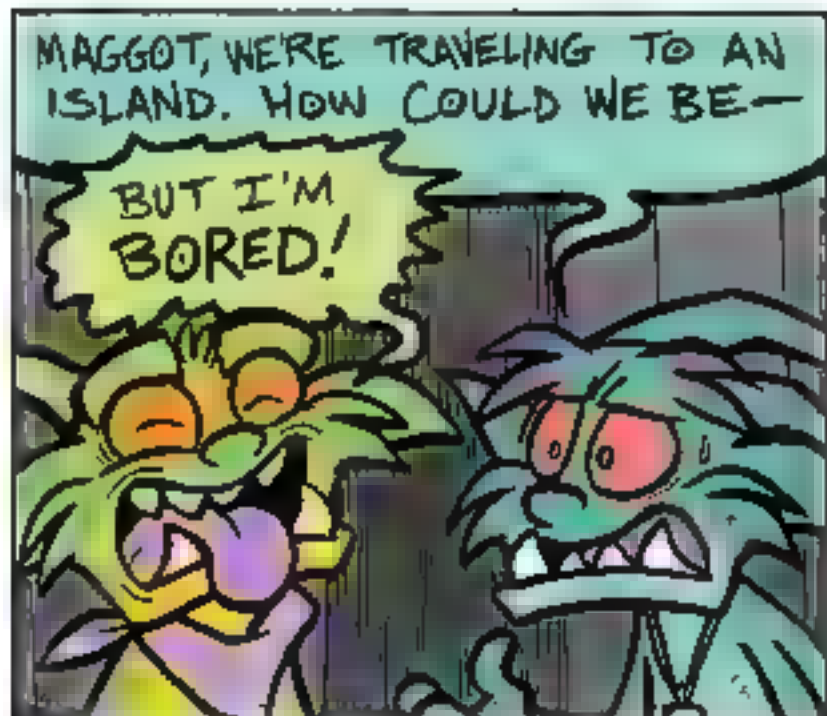




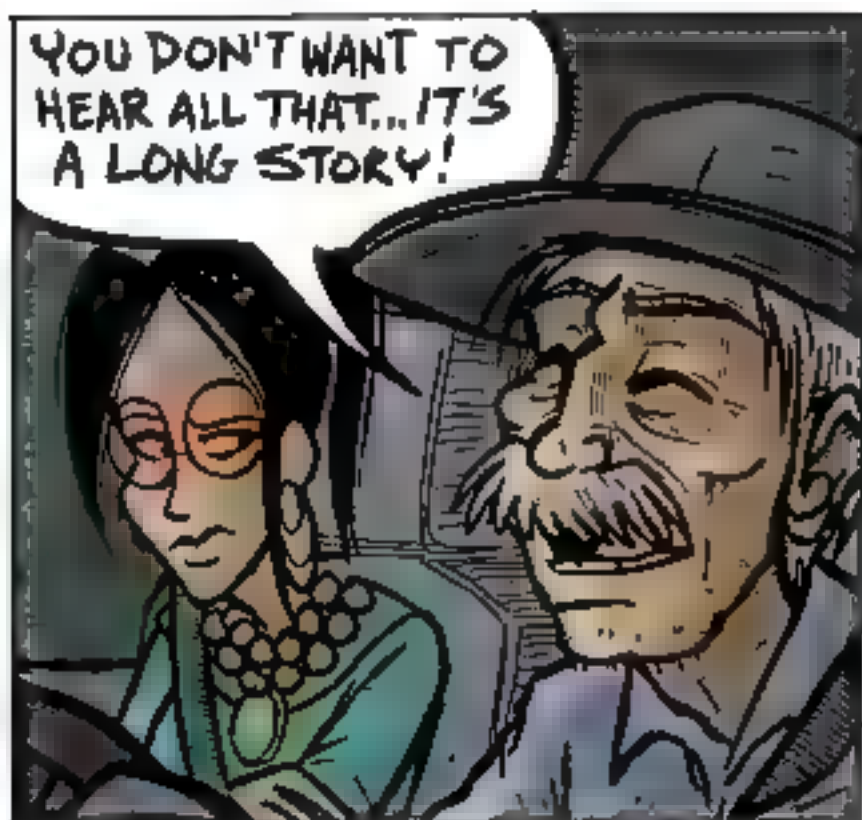








YOU DON'T WANT TO
HEAR ALL THAT... IT'S
A LONG STORY!



AND WE DON'T WANT TO GO
ON A CROSS-COUNTRY ROADTRIP
EITHER, YET HERE WE ARE.



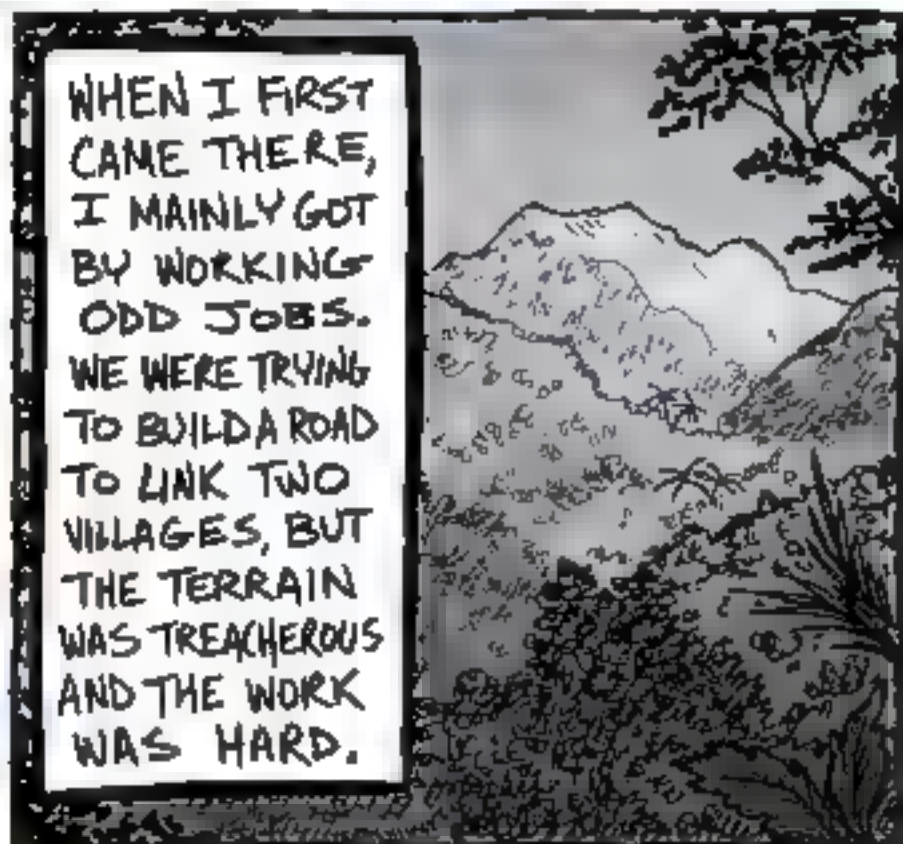
WAIT...
HOW DO
YOU KNOW
KAMPINGQ'S
GUARDIAN?



I LIVED ON THE
ISLAND WHEN I
WAS A YOUNG MAN.



WHEN I FIRST
CAME THERE,
I MAINLY GOT
BY WORKING
ODD JOBS.
WE WERE TRYING
TO BUILD A ROAD
TO LINK TWO
VILLAGES, BUT
THE TERRAIN
WAS TREACHEROUS
AND THE WORK
WAS HARD.





WHAT'S WRONG WITH
YOU, LADY?!



WHERE'D SHE GO?



I ASKED
AROUND, BUT
NONE OF THE
OTHER WORKERS
IN THE AREA
SAW HER.



THE GOBLIN WITCH,
AS HE CALLED HER,
LIVED ON THE
ISLAND FOR AS
LONG AS ANYONE
COULD REMEMBER.



ONE MAN WHO
WAS NATIVE TO THE
ISLAND TOLD
ME OF AN OLD
RECLUSE WHO
LIVED IN THE JUNGLE



SHE WAS
THE SUBJECT
OF SEVERAL
URBAN
LEGENDS.



BUT HE WENT
ON TO SAY
SHE HAD NOT
BEEN SEEN
FOR YEARS.



HER
EXISTENCE
WAS AS MUCH
A MYTH AS
THE GOBLINS
THAT WERE
ONCE BELIEVED
TO HAVE
FORMED THE
ISLAND.

IN SOME
STORIES SHE
WAS A GHOST.
IN OTHER
STORIES SHE
WAS DEATHLESS.



NOT LONG AFTER THAT DAY, THE ROAD PROJECT WAS DELAYED BY DANGEROUS CONDITIONS CAUSED BY THE RAINY SEASON.

I WAS LET GO FROM MY JOB, BUT MY RESEARCH WAS JUST BEGINNING.

I TRAVELED THE ISLAND AND SOON DISCOVERED STONES BEING SOLD AS PROTECTIVE CHARMS.



THE STONES, WHICH WOULD SOMETIMES GLOW WERE ACTUALLY QUITE COMMON.

THESE STONES WERE ANCHORS.

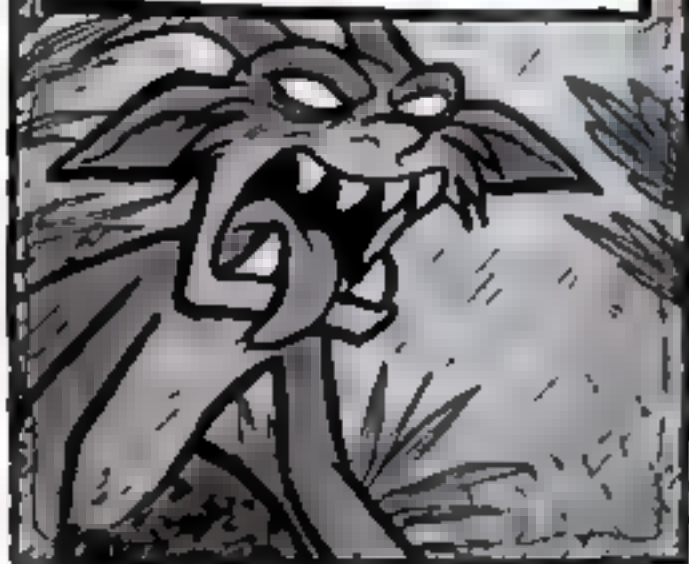


I CAME ACROSS SEVERAL DIFFERENT BOOKS ON THE MYTHS AND LEGENDS SURROUNDING THE ISLAND.

THE BOOKS WERE WRITTEN IN KAMPINGEAN, WHICH I COULD BARELY READ, BUT I TRIED MY BEST WITH WHAT I HAD.



THERE WERE OLD STORIES
OF FROGOBLIMS, WHICH FOLKS
BELIEVED WERE EVIL SPIRITS.



WELL, THOSE
STORIES
WERE FROM
A VERY
LONG TIME
AGO.



PEOPLE BELIEVED
FROGOBLIMS
WERE CRADLE
ROBBERS AND
WOULD GOBBLE
UP PEOPLE
LOST IN THE
FOREST.



BUT THEY
WERE
UNSEEABLE
AND
UNSTOPPABLE

THE LEGEND TOLD OF A LIVING VOLCANO,
THE SPIRIT OF THE ISLAND, WHICH THE
HUMAN'S PLED TO FOR HELP.



THE VOLCANO TOLD THE HUMANS
TO COAT THEIR EYES IN
THE JUICE OF THE KAMPING
FRUIT TO SEE THE SPIRITS

IT GAVE THE HUMANS
OF ITSELF SO THAT THEY WOULD
HAVE THE ISLAND'S PROTECTION.

THESE STONES
CANCELED
OUT THE
FROGOBLINS'
POWERS.

EVENTUALLY, AFTER GIVING
ALL THAT IT COULD GIVE,
THE VOLCANO WENT DORMANT.

IT WAS BELIEVED
THAT WAS WHEN
FROGOBLINS
COMPLETELY VANISHED
FROM THE ISLAND.

I DON'T LIKE
THAT STORY...

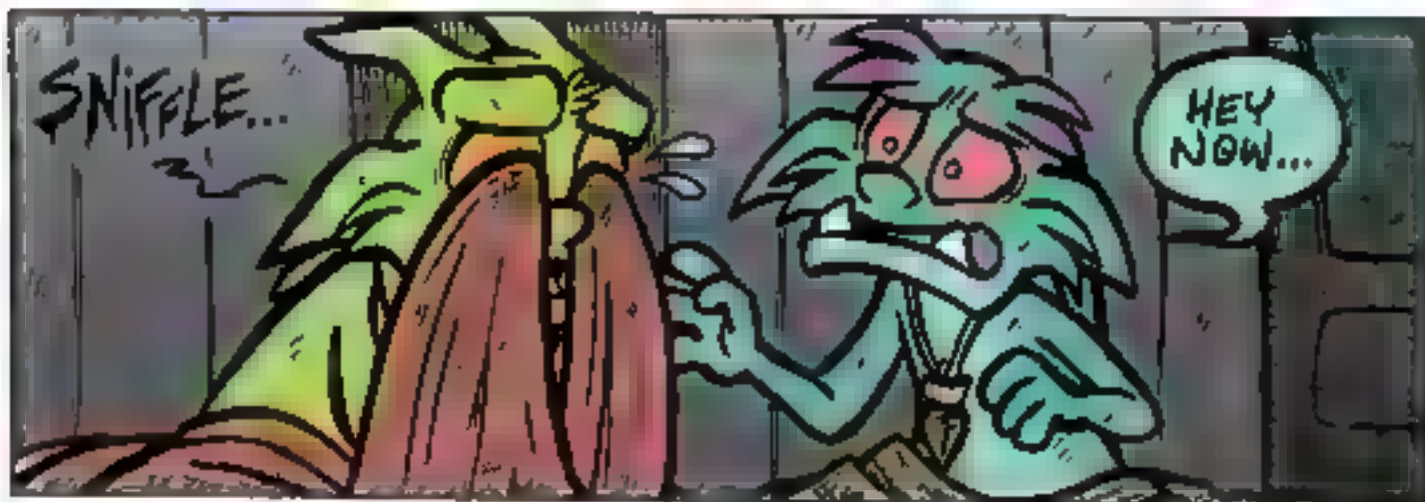
IT'S NOT FAIR! WHAT HAPPENED TO
THE FROGOBLIMS?!



DAD, THAT'S
TERRIBLE!
WHY WOULD
YOU BRING
UP SUCH
AN AWFUL
THING?!



SNIFFLE...



THAT WAS JUST A STORY...
THERE WAS A TALKING VOLCANO IN IT,
SO IT WAS JUST MAKE-BELIEVE!



BUT WHY'D THE
FROGOBLIMS
HAVE TO
DISAPPEAR?



I...
DON'T
KNOW...



YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO SHE WAS ALONE ON THAT ISLAND FOR WHO KNOWS HOW LONG. IT'S LIKE YOU COULDN'T CONSIDER HER FEELINGS AT ALL, DAD!



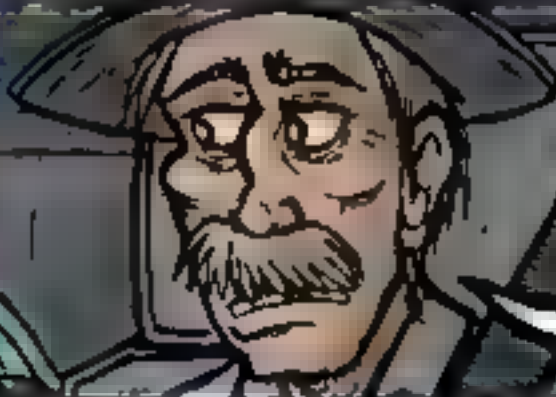
THAT LEGEND IS ANCIENT... IT WAS PASSED DOWN VERBALLY AGES BEFORE OUR TIME.



YEAH, BUT...



I AM SORRY, MAGGOT. IT WAS INSENSITIVE OF ME TO BRING IT UP.



I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY OTHER FROGOBLIMS BESIDES YOU, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'RE THE LAST OF YOUR KIND.



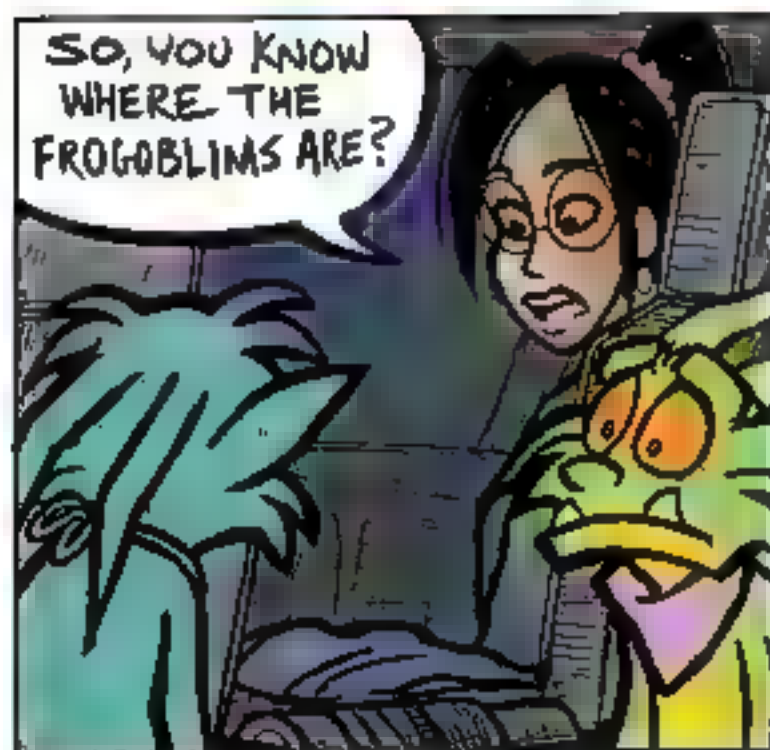
I TRULY THINK THEY LIVE IN A PLACE THAT HUMANS CAN'T REACH.

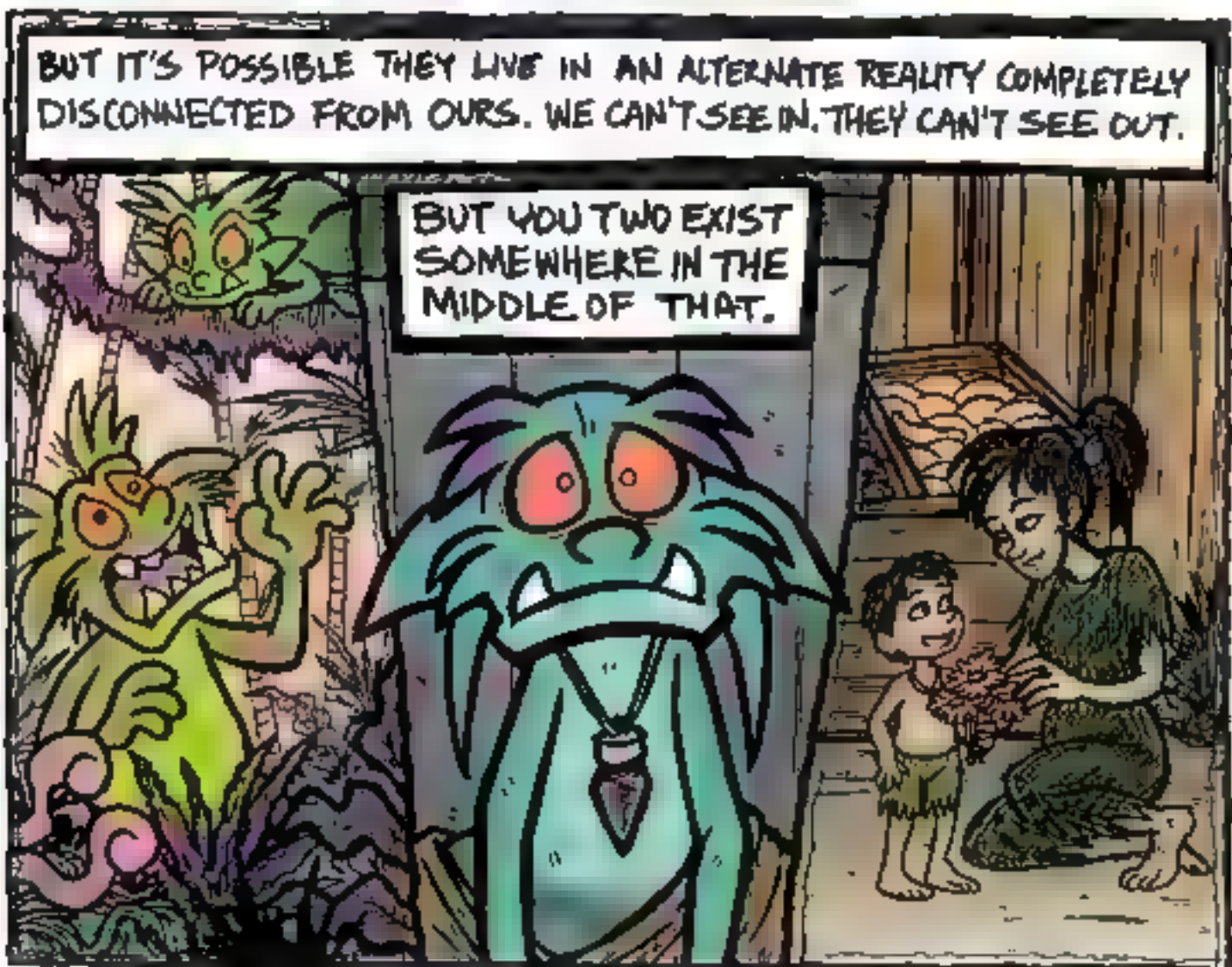
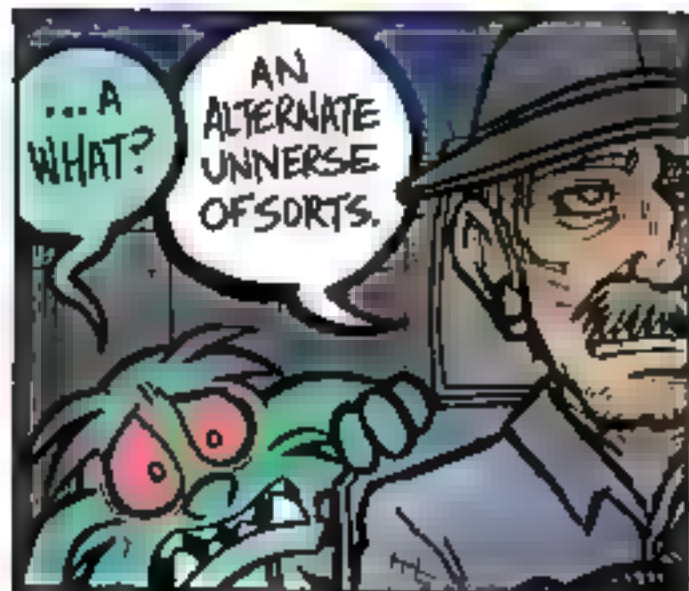
THAT'S RIGHT!



I'VE SEEN IT!







ALL THAT TALK
OF ALTERNATE
REALITIES,
DOESN'T THAT
SOUND
FAR-FETCHED?

NO.

FROM WHAT
YOU TOLD
ME, YOU
AND JARED
EXPERIENCED
THIS
FIRST
HAND.

HOLD ON,
YOU MEAN
THAT TIME
WHEN
MAGGOT
FELL ASLEEP?

I THOUGHT THAT WAS —
I DON'T KNOW — MORE
LIKE A DREAM... ?

THAT PLACE FELL APART... IT WASN'T
LIKE SOME ALTERNATE UNIVERSE THAT COULD
BE LIVED IN INDEFINITELY, RIGHT, JARED?



I... I'M NOT
REALLY
SURE.
I FELT
COMPLETELY
ISOLATED.



AS UNSTABLE AS IT WAS, FROM WHAT YOU SAID, JARED DISAPPEARED FROM THIS REALITY.

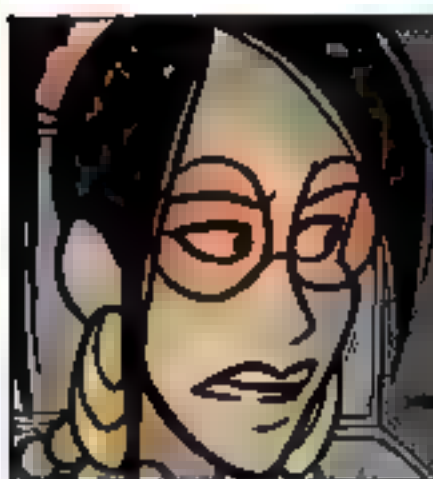


SO HE MUST HAVE BEEN IN A DIFFERENT REALITY.



OKAY, I'LL BUY THAT ALTERNATE REALITIES— EVEN COMPLEX ONES THAT CAN SUPPORT FROGOBLIMS— EXIST.

BUT IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE AND FROGOBLIMS LIVE IN AN ALTERNATE, ISOLATED REALITY, THEN HOW DID MAGGOT GET INTO THIS REALITY?



THAT I DON'T KNOW!

HAHA!



WELL, I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING
NOT BY A LONG SHOT...



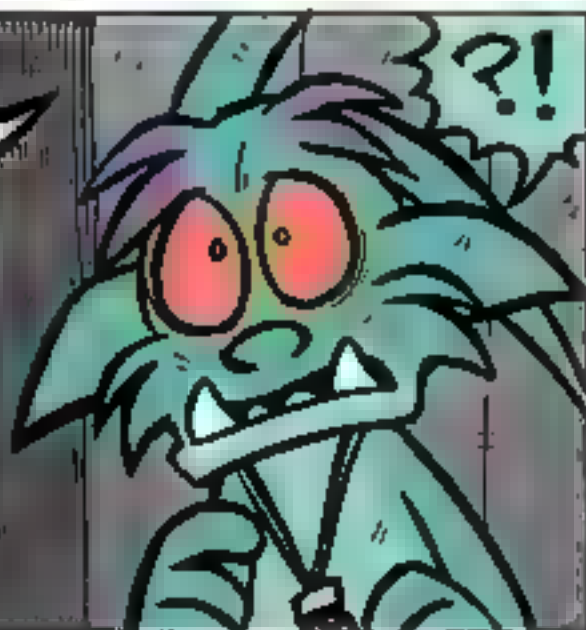
...BUT I DO HAVE A THEORY.



I BELIEVE THE GAUNTLET ON THE ISLAND MAY BE THE KEY TO REUNITING MAGGOT WITH THE OTHER FROGOBLIMS.



OF COURSE NOT.



I DON'T THINK THE
GUARDIAN WOULD HAVE
MENTIONED TO JARED
ABOUT THE ITEM I'M
LOOKING FOR—THE GAUNTLET—
IF IT WASN'T RELEVANT.

IT MAY BE
ABLE TO
HELP US.



I THOUGHT
YOU SAID
THE GAUNTLETS
SHOULDN'T
BE USED.



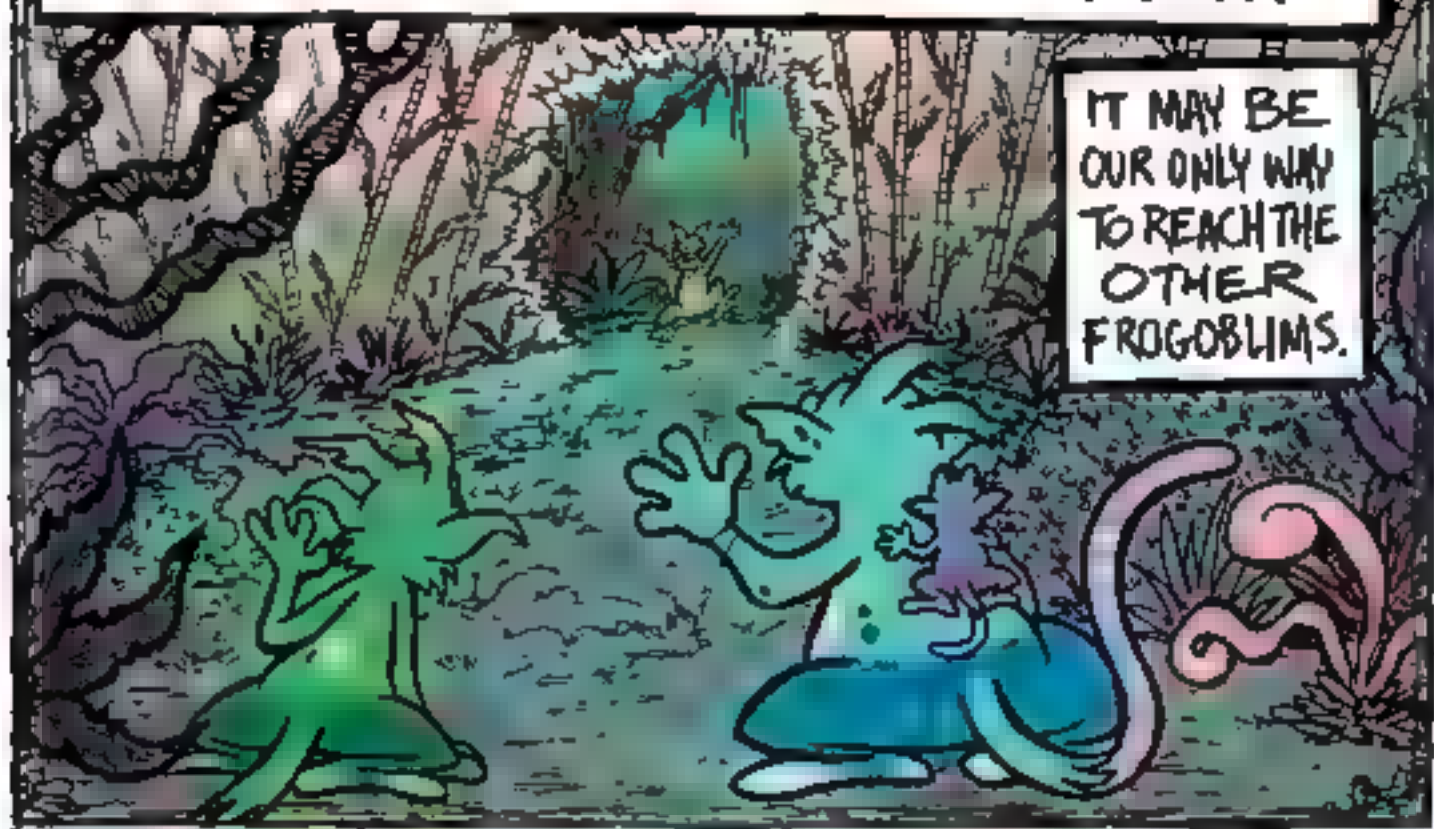
WE NEED TO BE
CAREFUL, OF COURSE.
AND I STILL
INTEND TO
DESTROY IT.

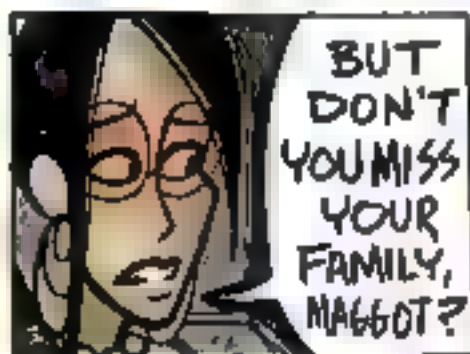
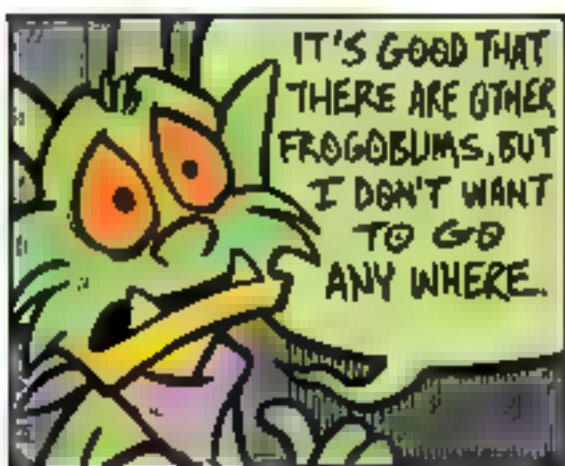
BUT IT'S
STILL
SOMETHING
I THINK WE
SHOULD CONSIDER.

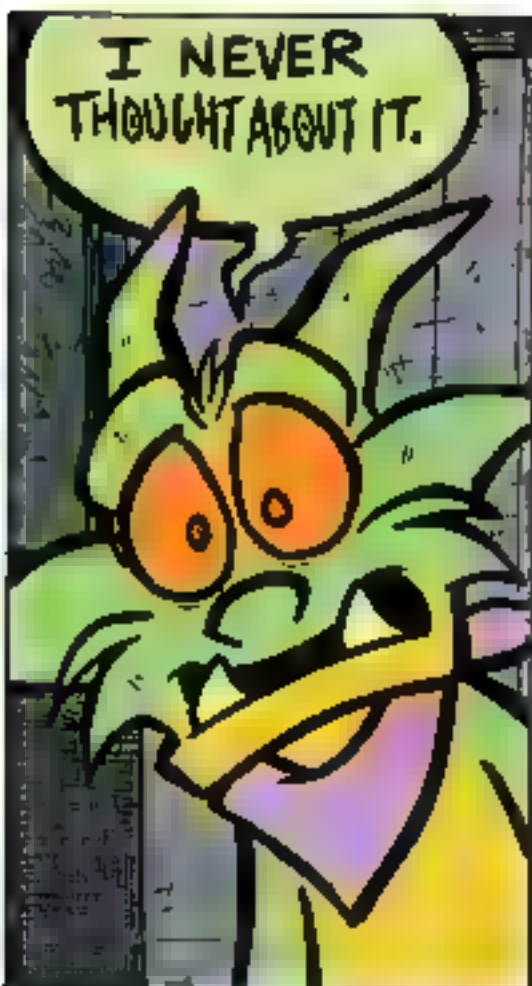
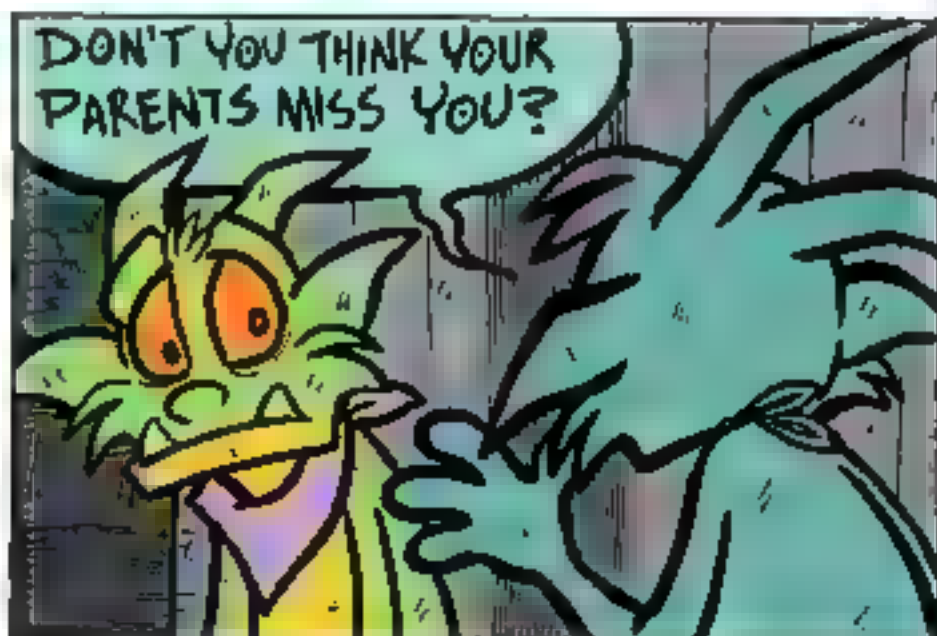
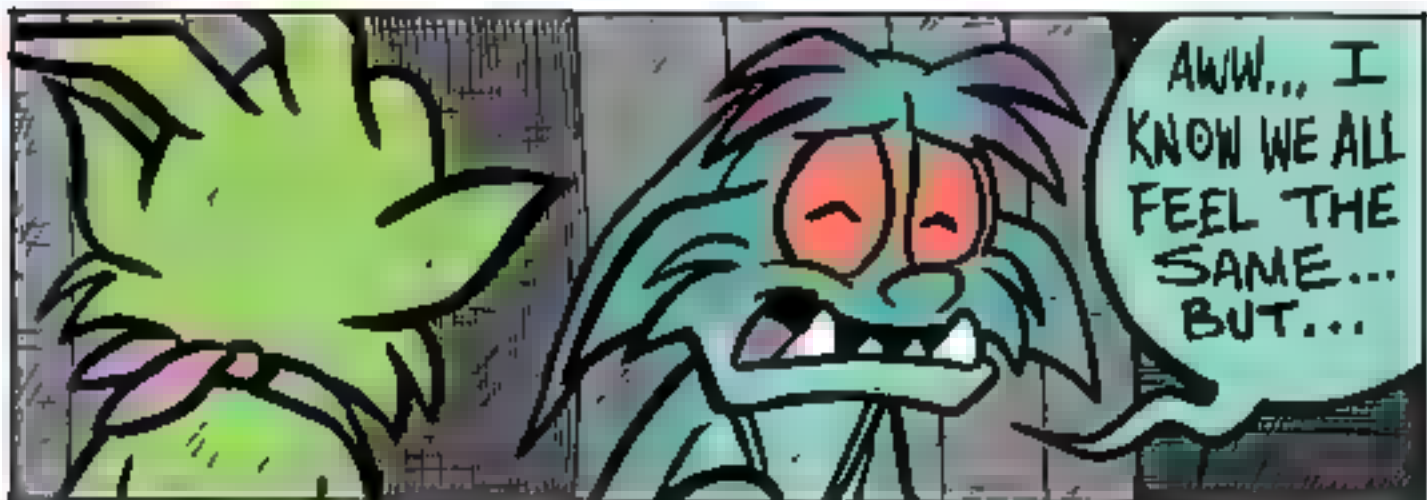


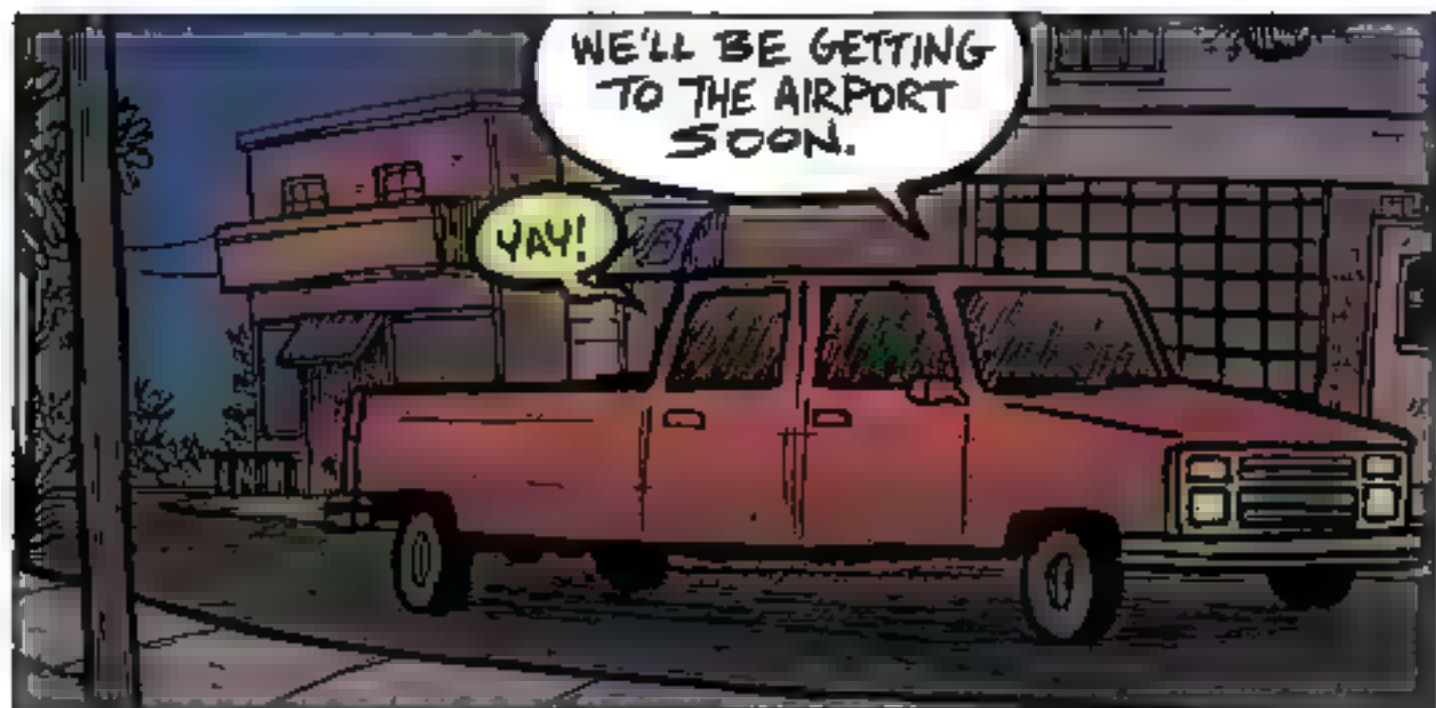
IT'S POSSIBLE THE GAUNTLETS COULD BE USED TO
PEEL BACK REALITY TO CROSS DIMENSIONS.

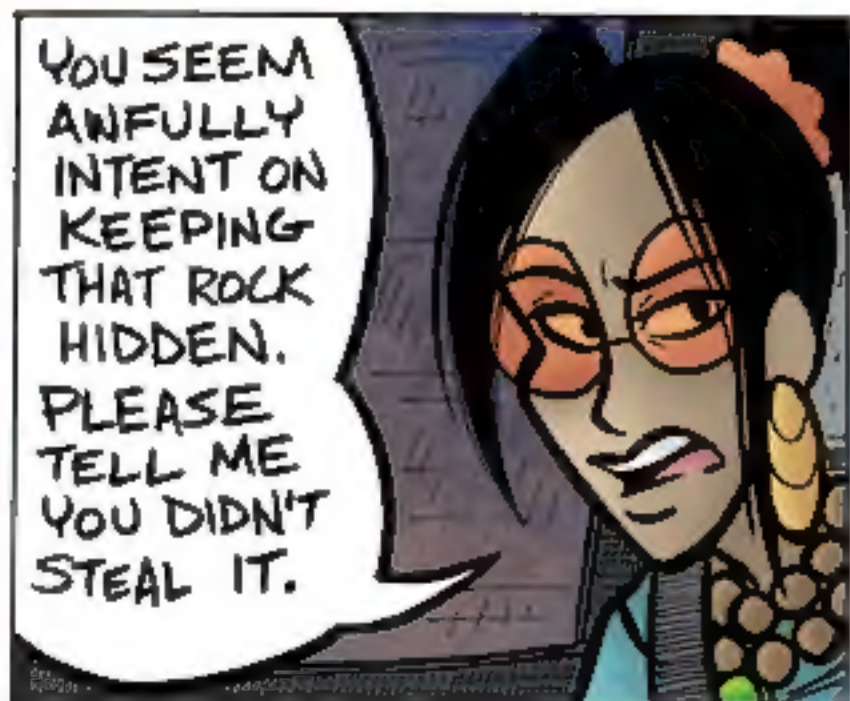
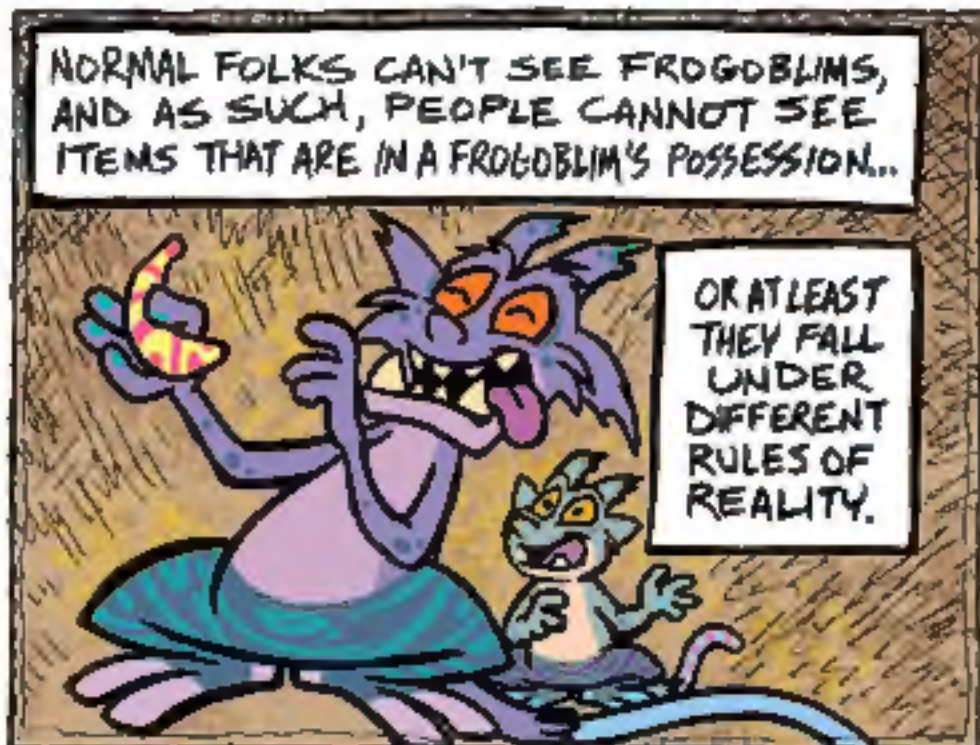
IT MAY BE
OUR ONLY WAY
TO REACH THE
OTHER
FROGOBLIMS.











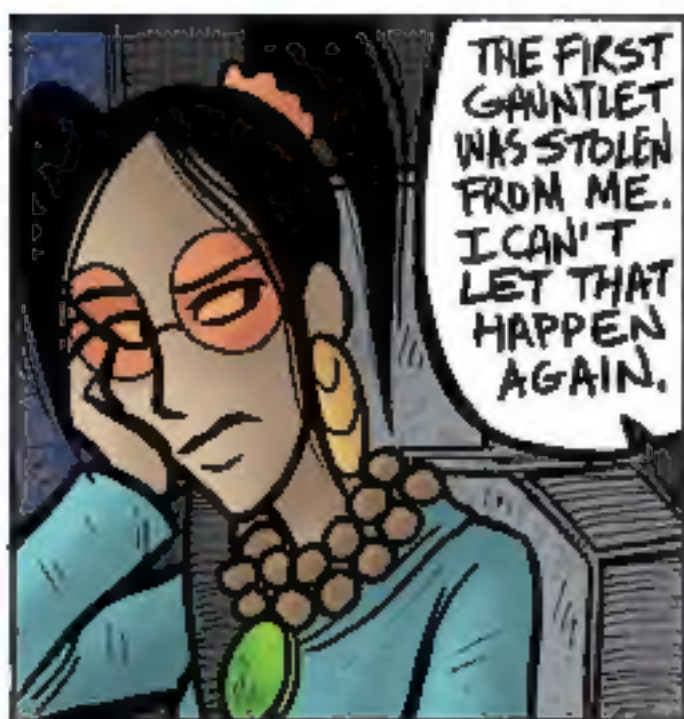
I'VE MADE MY SHARE OF
MISTAKES IN THE PAST...



BUT I'M NO THIEF,
HARPER!



THE FIRST
GAUNTLET
WAS STOLEN
FROM ME.
I CAN'T
LET THAT
HAPPEN
AGAIN.



JARED, YOU
DON'T HAVE TO
TAKE THE TABLET
IF YOU DON'T
WANT TO...



BUT IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO
THE TABLET AND THE WRONG PERSON
FINDS THE GAUNTLET BEFORE WE DO...
THINGS MAY FALL APART.



AS IT STANDS CURRENTLY,
THE TABLET WOULD BE
SAFEST IN YOUR HANDS.



